

Lietuvia Tautosakos Lobynas — A Treasure of Lithuanian Folklore. Dr. Jonas Balys. Dirva. \$3.00 (in Lithuania).

Dr. Jonas Balys, one of the foremost Lithuanian folklorists, who now holds a professorship of folklore at Indiana University, compiled a most interesting collection of Lithuanian ghost stories, folk magic and cures. Dr. Balys is not new in this field. In his native Lithuania, he has left a tremendous amount of his work, collections in the thousands of the "Daina" (Lith folk songs) and other phases of lore. Since his arrival to the States, he spends his every spare moment traveling among American Lithuanians collecting from them the oral lore which they brought with them from the old sod.

Dr. Balys is also the Business Manager of the Midwest Folklore magazine (printed in English) which is published by Indiana University. It is an educational publication.

Anyone interested in either of the publications may write to Dr. Jonas Balys, Library, Rm 41, Indiana University, Bloomington Indiana.



Agnes DeMille on the Folk Dance:

Agnes DeMille, famous choreographer of Rodeo and Oklahoma, in her autobiographic book, "Dance to the Piper," wrote:

"All I know about dance composition I learned from folk dances. These are trustworthy models because they are the residuum of what has worked; there is no folk dance extant that did not work . . . I have studied folk forms where possible."

This book makes absorbing reading and it is a revealing history of the struggle and growth of the dance in the United States. If you are a dancer you must read it.



The Folk Dance Memorizer:

Fred Leifer, eastern folk dance leader, published recently a booklet containing 75 folk dances of European extraction which are popular among the American folk dancers. The purpose of the booklet is it acts as a refresher and a memoirizer to those whom doubt may beset or memory might fail. It serves well this need. The booklet may be obtained from Fred Leifer, 1583 E. 98th St., Brooklyn 12, N.Y. Price \$1.00.



A Treasury of Jewish Folklore:

The most enjoyable, entertaining and educational book ever published on folklore is the above titled book, which was compiled and edited by Nathan Ausubel. It is a tome of 740 pages and in 1952 it underwent its 12th printing. The book (written in English) is divided into many sections and sub-sections, all introduced by interesting and revealing comments. It covers a 2,500 year period, and one learns through legend, fable, humor and essays all about Jewish heroes, martyrs, wise men, strong men, wonder workers, schnorrers, shlim-mazal's, shlumiels, the "Wise men of Chelm," Kibitzers, rogues, Litvaks, Hassidim, match makers and many other types of characters. Also included are parables, jokes, riddles, a section of 75 folk songs and a very interesting section of articles on little known Jews living in distant parts of the world. It is truly a treasure and highly recommended for anyone to add to his personal library. The New York Times wrote: "A 'must' for everyone, Christian and Jew alike."

THE CANADIAN YOUTH HOSTELS invited RUSS PICKERING of Toronto to be the folk dance instructor for the group which went to the European excursion. What a wonderful break!

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Among Our Friends

Two frenchies from Montreal, JACQUEC CARRIERE and MARCEL BOISVERT, visited Chicago. Yours truly, naturally, showed them the loveliest and most cultural spots of the city. Tho the Stockyards and Maxwell St., were also included. They left Chicago with wonderful impressions. Both are members of the French Folk group "Grasshoppers and Bullfrogs."

MARY ANN SRUPSA, an ATEITIS folk dancer, appeared in full regalia of Lithuanian costume on a page of Chicago's "Tribune". It was a large sized picture, larger than a Viltis page. Such Fame! Such Charm!

For two successive years members of the ATEITIS group won the coveted first prize for best Polka Dancing at the Chicago Harvest Moon Festivals. The first year it was VINCE SAMASKA and EMILY MUCHA, the following year it was JIM RADOSTITZ and BABE MUCHA. Who will it be this year? Jim is now in the Armed Forces. The MUCHAS "plan to enter their mother in the contest" in order to keep the title in the family. One thing has been established — THE BEST POLKA DANCERS COME FROM THE LITHUANIAN GROUP ATEITIS. VALIO and HURRAH!

Among the new officers of the Washington Folk Dance Federation are two friends of yours truly: LES BOYER of Okanogan. As president and LOREN PARKER of Wenatchee as treasurer. Two good men. By Golly!

ATEITIS still has five boys in the service. They are: FABIAN DAUZVARDIS, CLEM GAUSHAS, ED and AL VILIMAS and JIM RADOSTITZ.

Two members of the Newark, N. J. Lith folk dance group "RUTA", LOUIS STUKAS and PAUL PLUNGIS met up in practically the same outfit in Alaska. There they met another Lith. A VIP in the army. ANN ZALDORIS and they formed a Lith club of three. Having wonderful socials. Lou became quite popular as a soloist at programs and at church and as an organist as well. Lou is an accomplished musician, singer and a good dancer.

JOHNNY HOBGOD, our anthropologic adventurer who now studies in Mexico City. "Took himself a Walk" to the jungles of Southern Mexico along the Guatamalan-Honduran border and got himself lost amng unfriendly Lacandone Indians who still live under most primitive conditions. They wouldn't sell John food for love or money. John suffered hunger plus dysentery and had lost his compass and had to move on into the uninhabited depths of the jungle. After many adventures he finally came upon a nook of civilization and eventually back to Mexico City. His adventure was highly publicized n Mexico and he earned himself a reputation as an explorer.

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As For Myself - TO TRAINS

Things were happening rapidly this year of 1953 and the time flew faster than an arrow. I wrote and presented a Purim Shpil which proved to be a huge success. The play was based on the biblical book of Esther. It was a high comedy which annihilate historic eras and geographic boundaries, but it was a great deal of fun and it was one of the highlights of the Sanatorium.

My last service at the San was the preparation of the Passover Seder in every traditional detail, and it too turned out to be one of the finest Seder's in the history of Spivak. On April first I left for Chicago to be home in time for Easter. There, again, mother prepared a most traditional feast of real delicious Lith cooking with all sorts of trimming. It was a grand family reunion. Al Geary arrived for Easter and it made the unweaning from Spivak much easier.

The next week I left with Al for St. Luis where the National Folk Festival was held. There again, reunions after reunions. Everyone was genuinely happy to see me and I was equally happy to see them all.

By April 23rd I headed for New York to attend the 49th Annual JCFS convention. At that convention I reported for the patients and extended my gratitude in their and my own name, for their ceaseless efforts in maintaining the JCFS. My being there was a terrific experience for me. It never seemed possible that strangers would take such keen interest in the well being of people and the maintaining of a place with so much care and concern I attended various auxiliary meetings in several New England States, being received everywhere with great warmth. I, in turn, becoming more and more amazed at the hard work the women of the auxiliaries expend in raising every penny. It humbled me considerably. I, in turn, also was displayed around as an exhibit 1-A to show what their hard earned money does in restoring health.

I did not enjoy my Eastern trip during the first few weeks, especially in New York and Newark. The weather was miserable. Rain, plus trying to readjust with low altitudes, dampened and depressed my spirit. At first I had hoped to do so many things an see so very many people, but it didn't turn out that way. All I wanted was to be left alone and do nothing. It was only with my stay at Norwalk, Conn., at the lovely home of the W. K. Chen's that I started feeling my own self.

At the Chen place the sun shone for the first time since the Lord knows when. Their 18 acres of garden was then bedecked with a riot of rich color. There were many dogwoods, northern magnolia, lilacs, etc. while violets, bunch berries, false lilies of the valley carpeted the grounds. It was a most enchanting sight and from there on and all my subsequent trips I felt like in the days of old

I sojourned a month through the East and spent another month in Chicago and by July first I headed West, with John Mitchell acting as my chauffeur. We returned to Denver and Spivak and old stamping grounds. It was a triumphal return. Two years ago I arrived there a mere skeleton of 80 lbs and on the brink of death and now I was 142! Lawd! I had gained, in fact, seven additional pounds

since my discharge. Po' Johnny, tho, a lowlander, was laid low by the high altitude. Being about 6 feet 4 and higher than a average person, he must have suffered from the high altitude even more and was sick in bed throughout the Colorado stay.

A suggestion to those who travel through New Mexico and Colorado: Take in the San Luis Valley, Taos and Santa Fe and you will discover a new and a most fascinating world such as one never expects to find in the U. S. Investigate it for yourselves. We also went through some breath-taking scenery in Arizona. There were moments when I could barely contain my breath from being taken when driving through those dizzying canyons.

In Albuquerque I also stopped over to see Dr. Klein and family. Dr. Klein holds now an important position with the V. A. Hospital at Albuquerque. During my JCFS days he was my doctor in chief. He certainly and genuinely rejoiced at my incredible recovery and progress. So did everyone at the hospital as well as the entire host of friends everywhere. None seemed to think it possible. But God is great and nothing is impossible with Him.

I owe each one of you endless thanks. I wouldn't know where to start nor where to finish. Not only you, dear friends, but also to all the nurses who were so sympathetic toward me and the doctors, all of whom looked after me with so much love and care, and the various auxiliaries whose efforts make JCFS possible. But a diamond studded thanks of great brilliance goes to the Lewis sisters, Charlotte Chen and Jerry Joris who were to me like sisters and mothers. They have undertaken great responsibilities and have shirked from no duty. They, indeed, have slaved away for my welfare and carried a heavy burden on my account. To them and to all of you my profound gratitude pressing your hands with great warmth.

Pasimatysim,
Vyt-Fin

Wedding Bells

CARTER-ENHOLM

The enchanting spot, The Lighted Lantern of Paul Kermiet, on Lookout Mountain, behind Denver, was the romantic scene of the marriage between two swell people, Elizabeth Carter and Fred Enholm, of Denver's Steele Community Center, on May 16. All of us, including those of JCFS whom you so often entertained, wish you good fortune and happiness.

WHITE-BURBANK

On June 19, at the University Park Methodist Church, Denver, Colo., the marriage was solemnized between Frances Lucile White and Bruce Warner Burbank. Both are members of the Mile-Hi club and both are grand kids. All our good wishes for ever after to you.

CARRIERE-CLERMONT

Two members of the French Folk Dance group, "Grasshoppers and Bullfrogs" of Montreal, Canada, Therese Carriere and Jean Clermont, were united into marriage at St. Bernard (Montreal) on June 29. Notre meilleur et sincere vouex de joyeux et heureuse vie.